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Young Farmers & Future Farmers

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On the cover: The South Carolina Association of FFA gathers for the 65th time at the Annual National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

To FFA Members

by J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The 65th National FFA Convention held in Kansas City November 11-15 set a new attendance record of more than 28,700 FFA members, advisors and guests. South Carolina also had a new record of 301 attending the convention this year. We were proud of the FFA members and advisors who received special recognition at the convention. You will see a number of winners in this issue of the magazine. Mr. Hugh McClimon, who served as our state leader in Agricultural Education and State FFA Advisor for eight years prior to his retirement, received the VIP Citation, one of the highest awards given by the National FFA Organization.

Several exciting speakers motivated and inspired the enthusiastic crowd of FFA members. The National Agricultural Career Show provided members an opportunity to visit with agribusiness representatives of more than 100 companies to discuss and explore job opportunities in the broad industry of agriculture. Perhaps many of you will have the opportunity to participate in the 1993 National FFA Convention.

The Made for Excellence (MFE) Conference will be held at the Town House Hotel in Columbia, February 6-7, 1993. MFE is a personal development experience that offers benefits for everyone. Students improve their self-image, learn how to deal with peer pressure and set goals. Made for Excellence gives students the tools to build a foundation for success in personal and professional life. Members should check with their advisors for more details on the MFE Conference.

National FFA Week will be celebrated February 20-27, 1993. Every chapter should join together to tell the successful story of agricultural education and the FFA organization. Enlist the help of the news media to let the public know about the good things that are happening in the FFA chapter at your school.

Remember that the due date for most of the FFA Awards is April 15. The FFA Organization offers a tremendous opportunity for each person to develop leadership skills and demonstrate knowledge and skills learned in agricultural education classes. Every eligible member should take advantage of the awards that are available by participating in the FFA contests and awards program.

To Young Farmers

by Steve Willis

The South Carolina Young Farmer Association will hold its 45th annual convention on January 15-16, 1993, at the Radisson/Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach. The convention will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, followed by a reception and the production awards banquet at 7:00 p.m.

The Farm Service Center Award will be presented at the banquet, along with awards in Corn, Soybean, Cotton, Livestock and Energy Efficiency. Our featured speaker will be Muriel O'Toole of Conway, South Carolina.

On Saturday evening, chapter awards will be presented and the Young Farmer of the Year announced. Also, a Case IH tractor will be presented to the State President during the banquet. Following this, Charles Edens has arranged for a casino/auction to take place from 9:30 to midnight as entertainment. Everyone seemed to have a great

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To Young Farmers —

Continued from page 2

time of this last year, so more tables will be added at the 1993 Convention.

A Convention Attendance Award in the amount of $ 50.00 will go to the chapter with the largest number of Young Farmers in attendance at all sessions of the convention. The score will be counted at one point per person for each session, including the banquets, exhibits and luncheons. In addition, we purposely put in some free time on Saturday afternoon so that members and their families can enjoy this resort area.

This is our third year to hold the Convention at the Radisson. The facilities are great, the rates are very reasonable, the shopping is uncrowded at this time, and the exhibits are educational and entertaining. Best of all, the two days provide an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet new friends. So, Young Farmers, plan to bring the family for a nice weekend in Myrtle Beach.

Chapters need to start thinking about and collecting dues for the 1993 year in January. Membership is $ 10.00 for one year or $ 100.00 for life membership. Chapters will receive membership rosters in January to begin the process. The deadline for having these dues into my office is February 29, 1993.

And now...

A Word from the President

You may hear often during your FFA career that the FFA is the best. The problem is that this statement taken by itself is just that...nothing more than a statement. What's the proof?

For me, I look back to my ninth grade year, when the FFA converted me into a public speaking fool. After I won first in the state FFA creed speaking contest, I won first place in a state 4-H public speaking contest, and later, I culminated my foray into public speaking with a second place finish in the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest (even with my Southern drawl!). The very next year, I became your South Carolina State FFA President.

For Thomas, Jennifer, Kim, Henry, and Wendell (the other state officers), their proof is different, but just as steadfast. The question remains, though, how is the FFA best for youi?

The FFA offers more opportunities and experiences to learn than any other organization that has and/or (in my opinion) will ever be in existence. What other club or organization has a state convention or national convention (the FFA has the largest national convention anyhow) where the chapters not only hold meetings, but also annual banquets; where the students participate in contest that will prepare them for their future careers; where leadership workshops such as MFE and WCP are offered on state and national levels, and where new members can gain leadership and other rewards without having been in the club since their youth! Whew! You can blink now!

So what can I say?! If you want to get more out of the FFA, PARTICIPATE!!! Go to those workships, get involved in those contests, and go to the state convention. Preparing yourself now by doing these things can not only lead to a future state office, but might also be what separates you from another person running for the same scholarship, job, or position!

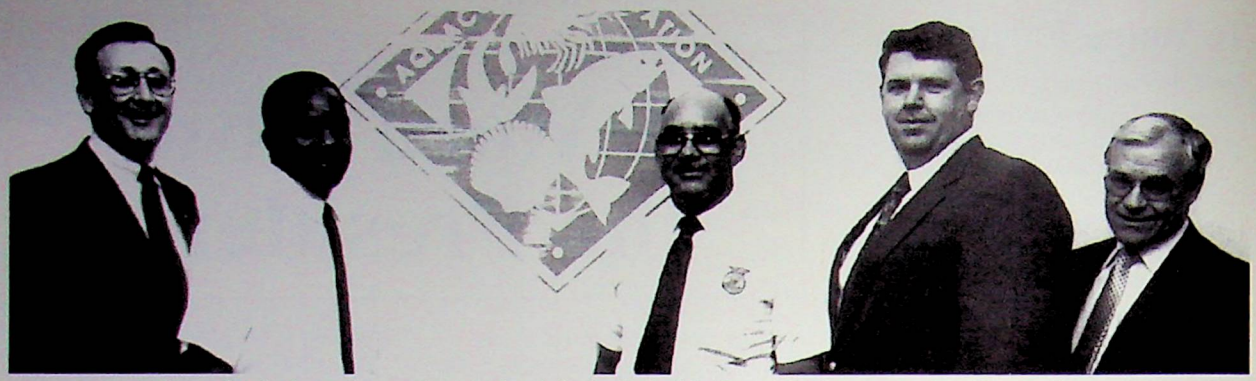
Clover FFA assists in school beautification

Jason Fickling and Shane stokes mulch trees at the high school.

As former **Saturday Night Live** performer and popular comedian Billy Crystal would say, "You look mahvelous." That is one phrase being heard a lot around the grounds of Clover High School these days, and such compliments are well deserved as a result of work performed by the school's FFA members.

Advisor Chris Edge has had many of his horticulture students working to spread mulch around trees at CHS in order to improve the looks of the school. And although it takes a little elbow grease to get the job done, Edge insists his classes don't seem to mind. "Students enjoy the chance to go outside and take part in the work because it makes the class more than just a 20' by 20' room," he explained.

Other classes containing FFA members may be picking up on this idea as an opportunity to get hands-on experience while learning the educational material at the same time. Agricultural Science classes at CHS currently have plans to plant shrubbery in front of the school to complete the original designs of landscape architects drawn when the school was built in 1976.



Pictured at the Aquaculture seminar are (from left): Jay Eudy of the Council Task Force; teachers George Ulmer, Thomas Dawkins and Al Gray; and Council Chairman Dr. Larry Case.

Teachers Attend National Seminar

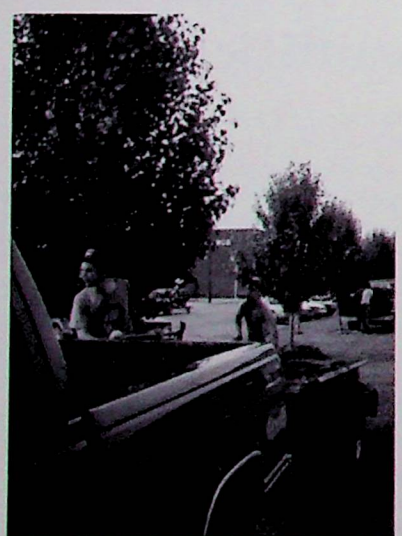
Three of the state's top agricultural educators attended a seminar in nearby Raleigh, NC designed to develop and test new aquaculture instructional materials. Al Gray of Pendleton, George Ulmer of Cordova and Thomas Dawkins of Estill joined over 250 of their peers from every state in the union at the inservice conference sponsored by The National Council for Agricultural Education.

Through the use of a grant from the USDA's Cooperative State Research Service, the council worked with leaders in the aquaculture industry and academia to develop a five-volume curriculum for use in high school agriscience classes. This curriculum was tested in South Carolina during the 1991-1992 school year. Other states used as"guinea pigs" for the program included Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, Iowa and Indiana.

Said John Pope, executive director of the council, "In our test schools, we've integrated aquaculture with other areas of instruction. Students are eager to learn, and they say this hands-on applied math and science instruction is fun."

As one of the up-and-coming sciences in the education field, aquaculture is the fastest growing area of U.S. agriculture, with production increases of over 10% each year. Industry analysts predict this area to expand rapidly, given its current value of over $860 million annually.

The National Council for Agricultural Education is a partnership between education and agriculture that serves over one half million students and professionals. It is the umbrella organization for agricultural education providing leadership, stimulating creativity, developing fresh initiatives, creating a climate for renewal and improvement of existing programs, and promoting the development of new programs in agricultural education.



Martin Moses and Shane Ferguson mulch trees in downtown Clover before Cloverfest.

Students "Rise and Shine" for Cloverfest

FFA members at Clover High School truly could be named as one of President George Bush's 1,000 points of light, as they all volunteered their time on Saturday, September 19th to beautify their hometown for its annual Clover Fest, which draws hundreds of visitors to the city each year. What may be more amazing, however, is the fact that these students literally arose with the sun in order to meet with advisor Chris Edge at **7:00 in the morning!!!**

Edge explained that they scheduled the project for such an early start to keep the work from conflicting with other jobs the students held. These dedicated teenagers spent over five hours mulching trees throughout the city, utilizing mulch recycled by the city from curbside debris.

The students had received a good amount of practice for the project through their planting and mulching of trees on the school grounds; however, they took special care when cleaning up their hometown for the upcoming festival.

"Many of these students are taking their own free time to get this job done because they care about their town and want to make visitors feel welcome when they come to visit next week," said Edge. "I was extremely pleased with the student turnout we had today, and I really feel they deserve a great deal of credit for all their hard work."

SCVATA Meeting Convenes in Clemson

"Diversity of opinion and approach gives us an opportunity for progress." That statement from keynote speaker Larry W. Nelson of Clemson University may best sum up the prevailing attitude at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association held July 21st through the 23rd on the Clemson campus. A record-setting crowd of over 100 agricultural science teachers spent three days discussing the various methods and technology involved in the farming industry today.

Several workshops were conducted at different locations throughout the upstate campus. The state's teachers learned of advances in such subjects as agricultural education, beef cow breeding, greenhouse controls, poultry production, turf equipment management, aquaculture and biotechnology. A workshop was also conducted to determine any improvements that may be needed to improve the image and quality of local, federation, district and state programs.

The convention wasn't all work and no play, however. Just More BBQ in Pendleton provided the food; and Floyd Brockington and Jay Rowe, the fun, at Tuesday night's get-together. More fun was had Wednesday night at the Annual SCVATA Awards Banquet, which was highlighted by the retirement of four of the state's most popular agricultural educators. Olin F. Counts, Dr. J. Alex Hash, Hugh P. McClimon and Walter P. Lloyd all received congratulations (and a good bit of roasting—all in jest, of course) at the banquet held at the Ramada Inn.

It was at the banquet that Larry Nelson, an Extension Horse Specialist at Clemson and an orator reminiscent of the infamous Lewis Grizzard, delivered a laughter-packed speech entitled "Organizations that Survive," in which he put forth the following **Seven Habits of Effective People** from the book of the same name by Steve Covey:

1) Be proactive — use energy to get things done.

2) Begin with the end in mind — recognize changes that need to be made.

3) Put first things first — allows for soft decisions to be made.

4) Think win/win — the power of positive thinking pervades all situations.

5) Seek first to understand, then to be understood — "meet at the kitchen table."

6) Synergize — the sum is always stronger than the parts.

7) Sharpen the saw — exercise the mind and the body.

Ideas for "Working with our Publics" were delivered by another member of the Clemson University administration, James H. Daniels.

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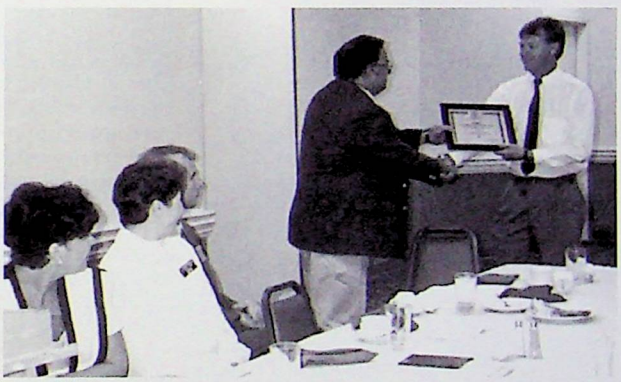
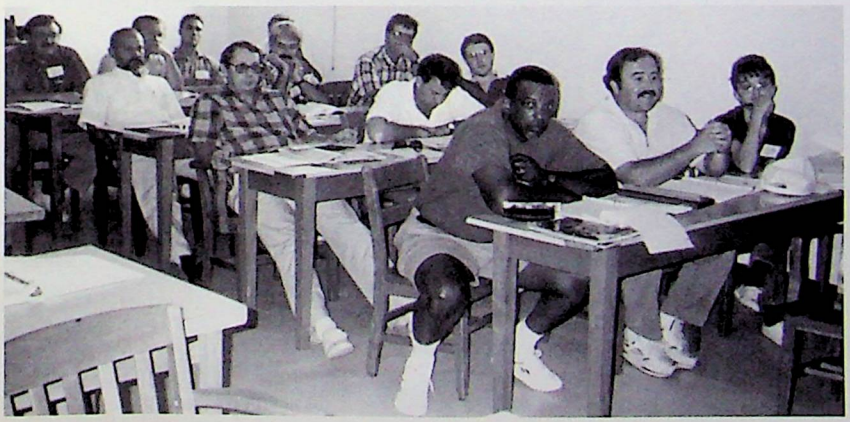


RIGHT: Pat Earle of McBee High School receives the NVATA Outstanding Young Member Award. Earle was also the RegionV Award Winner.



ABOVE: Willie Pearson of Darlington, "stylin' and profilin'" at the SCVATA Awards Banquet.

LEFT: These state ag teachers spend their afternoon watching a stimulating videotape on greenhouse maintenance.

Britton's Neck Hosts Young Farmers Summer Tour

Over 90 of South Carolina's Young Farmers converged on the towns of Marion and Mullins August 7th and 8th for the annual Young Farmer Summer Tour, this year hosted by the Britton's Neck chapter and its advisor, Jerry Pace.

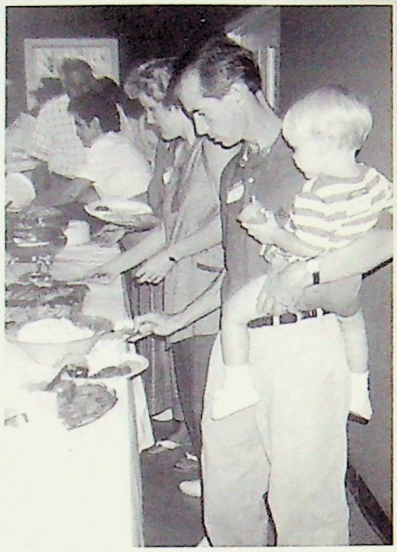
A full schedule of activities was planned for the group, ranging from tours of tobacco and aquaculture farms to a trip to the Russell Stover Candy Factory Outlet. All the tours were set up by members of the Britton's Neck association, many of whom had worked diligently since January to pull the whole trip together.

Once everyone arrived in the Marion area on Friday, August 7, tour buses headed for the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank, where a catered meal had been arranged by Young Farmer Edsel Williams. From there the tour headed to the Marion County Museum, where the South Carolina Watercolor Exhibit was on display. Other features of the museum included an agricultural exhibit and a large bell that was available for ringing by children (and a few adults, as well).

Saturday morning brought visits to the Dupree Atkinson farm, where large acres of tobacco are grown, along with wheat, soybeans, cabbage, corn, strawberries, watermelon and broccoli. After touring the farm, the group was taken to the Mullins Tobacco Warehouse, where an explanation of the marketing process was given by owner Bob Battle of J.R. Battle and Company. Approaching its 100th anniversary, the warehouse was built 1895 and today has the capacity of selling 300,000 lbs of tobacco per day.

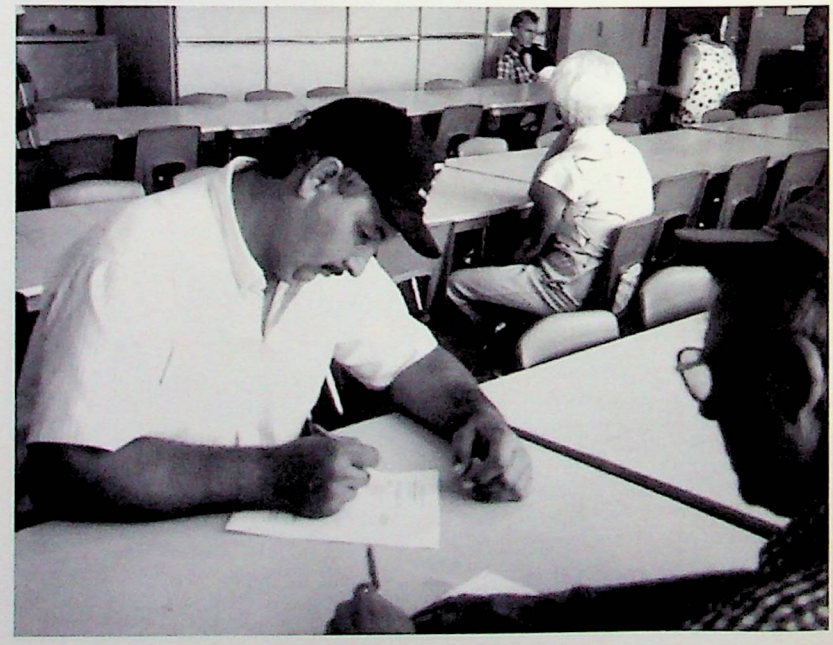
Lunch for the bunch was served at Britton's Neck Elementary School where Judy and Linda Dennis had prepared a bountiful feast of pork and chicken. The tour continued onto the B & M Aquaculture Farm, where catfish are raised through a large pond and hatchery. The aquaculture farm is also owned by the Battle family and is a relatively new addition to the area.

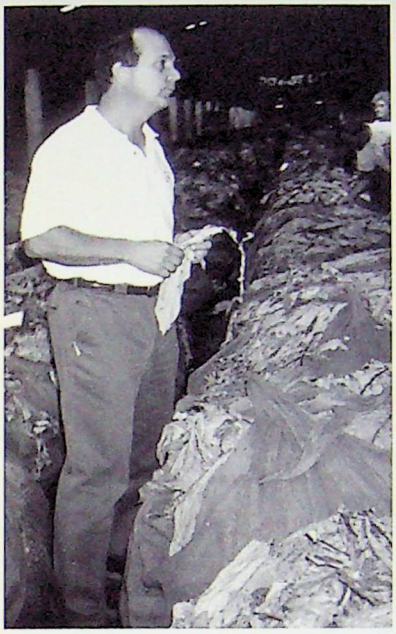
The tour moves around the state each year and is "basically, a sharing of ideas," said Steve Willis, the State Executive Secretary of the South Carolina Young Farmers. Chimed in Bill Nance, President of the state organization, "This tour provides a great opportunity to see the diversity of agriculture across the state...and of course, the chance to have a little vacation, as well."



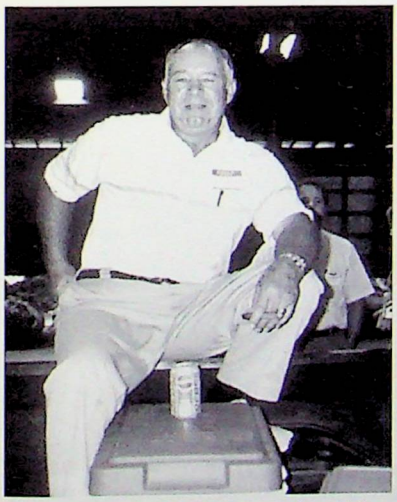
ABOVE: Chris and Tyler Edge of Clover take advantage of the buffet dinner served at the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank in Marion.

BELOW: Young Farmer State President Bill Nance concentrates on filling out yet another of Joe Harper's surveys.





Bob Battle of J.R. Battle and Co. shows what companies like RJ Reynolds are looking for in tobacco leaves when they visit the Mullins Tobacco Warehouse.



Service with a smile... This member of the Britton's Neck YF Chapter hands out drinks to the farmers during the tour.

Dupree Atkinson explains the tobacco drying process to those on the Young Farmer Summer Tour in Marion.

South Carolinians Take Kansas City by Storm

Almost 300 students from across South Carolina descended upon the midwestern city of Kansas City November 11th through the 15th for the largest youth convention held worldwide...the 65th Annual National FFA Convention. The group was among the record-setting 28,418 members and guests that attended the many sessions held at Municipal Auditorium.

From the time the students checked in at the SC FFA "headquarters," the Howard Johnson hotel, to the time the last plane left International Airport, the theme of the week was full steam ahead, as they not only attended the convention sessions, the FFA Mall and the career show, they also were able to enjoy the many sights and sounds of the area. The American Royal Rodeo, the Crown Center, the Plaza and famous restaurants such as The Golden Ox kept all who attended busy from start to finish.

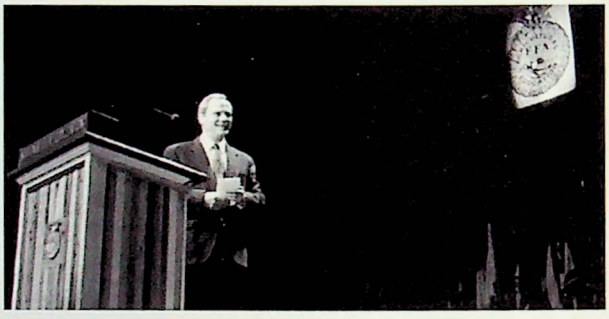
At the convention hall, several speakers delighted the crowds with their messages of motivation, determination, and hope for the future. Some of the more popular figures were country music stars Joe Diffie and The Kentucky Headhunters, Miss America Leanza Cornett, author Zig Ziglar and Olympic Gold Medalist Mary Lou Retton. However, the largest cheers were reserved for former hostage Dr. Thomas Sutherland, who was held captive by terrorists in Lebanon for over seven years.

The highlight of the convention had to be the announcement of the 1992-1993 National Officer Team. Serving as officers this year will be President Travis Park of Franklin, IN; Secretary Kevin White of Redding, CA; and Vice Presidents John Kleiboeker of Stotts City, MO; Rick Perkins of Bloomville, OH; Todd Hingson of Live Oak, FL; and Dennis Degner of Malone, TX.

Receiving special recognition at the Convention was former State Advisor Hugh P. McClimon, who received the VIP Citation and the Honorary Degree awarded to outgoing members of the Board of Directors, in honor of his many years of service to the organization. Also making a splash on the stage was former state secretary Lee Mayfield, who was presented as South Carolina's candidate for national office.

Many of the South Carolinans on hand made the trip "just for the fun of it" as the old saying goes. However, several were there to compete in national contests and to receive recognition as having some of the best chapters in the country. One such student was Brian Benenhaley, a former FFA'er at Hillcrest-Dalzell and a current student at Presbyterian College who competed in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest as the Regional Winner. Benenhaley certainly lived up to his billing as one of the best around, as he captured third place with his speech entitled "Deregulation and Its Potential Impact on Agriculture."

Several area schools sent teams to compete in national contests and to receive national awards for their work in school and community activities. All those in attendance, however, came away with the feeling that they had just experienced something very special that can only be found in the brotherhood, the comeraderie and the spirit that is the essence of FFA.

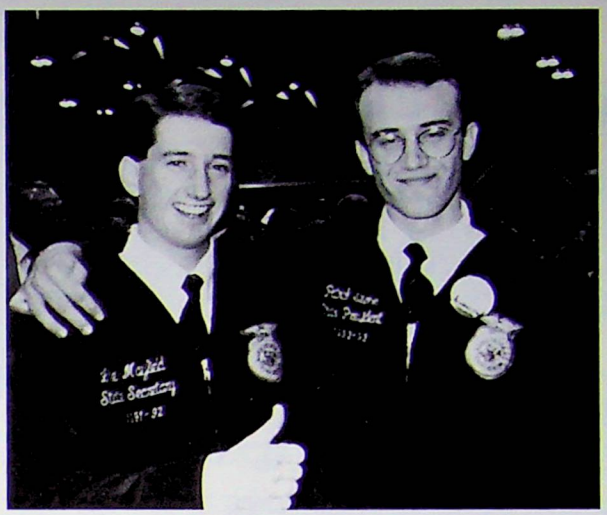


ovation from those at the 65th National FFA Convention.

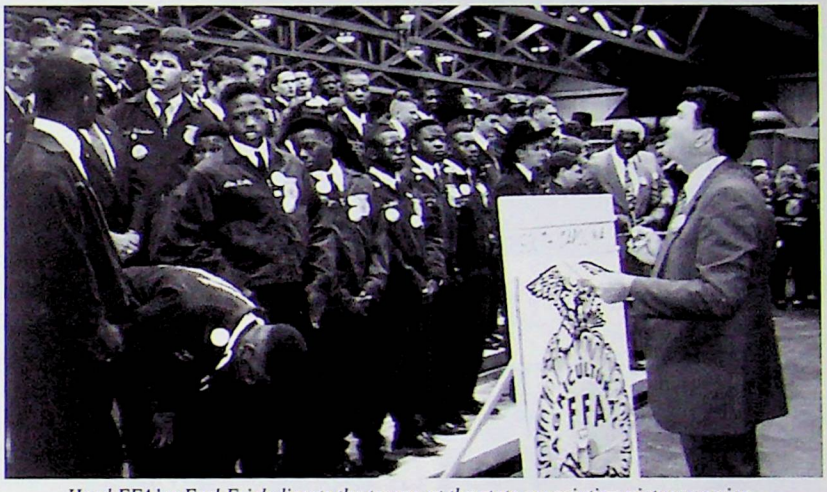
Hail to the Chiefs...State Presidents past and present Will Harman and Patrick Stone go over some important information...about the Clemson football game!

Former State Executive Hugh P. McClimon receives the National VIP Citation from National Vice-President Wesley Barefoot.

Brian Benenhaley, a third-place finisher in the National Prepared Public Speaking contest.



LEFT: National Officer Candidate Lee Mayfield campaigns with State President Patrick Stone.



Head FFA'er Earl Frick directs the troops at the state association picture session.

The South Carolina Delegation (a.k.a. the 1992-93 State Officers) take a moment to pose for the camera on the convention floor.

The Spirit of Leadership

AWARD WINNERS AT THE 65TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

VIP CITATION
Hugh McClimon

DIRECTORS SERVICE AWARD
Hugh McClimon

NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE
Lee Mayfield

FFA AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS
Lee Mayfield *[Dorman]*
Stacey Bazen
[Britton's Neck]
Michael Hemingway
[Britton's Neck]
Tyson Waddell
[James F. Byrnes]
Daniel H. Garrick *[Edisto]*
Ricky Stone *[Aiken]*

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS
Pleasant Hill [Silver]
McBee [Silver]
Clover [Bronze]
Travelers Rest [Bronze]

BOAC AWARDS
Furman-Manchester [Silver]
Strom Thurmond [Bronze]
McBee [Bronze]
Loris [Bronze]

CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS
Furman-Manchester [Silver]
Pleasant Hill [Silver]
Travelers Rest [Silver]

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING
Brian Benenhaley
[Hillcrest] — 3rd Place

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE
Strom Thurmond [Bronze]
Wesley Franklin [Gold]
John Powell [Gold]
George Doolittle

AG MECHANICS
Wagner Salley [Bronze]
Chad Hudson [Bronze]
Tim Giaffis [Bronze]
Howie Disher
Danny Shepperd

FORESTRY
Travelers Rest [Bronze]
Charles Boyd [Bronze]
David Allen
Greg Anderson
Marty Davis

LIVESTOCK
Britton's Neck
Warren Larrimore [Bronze]
Kim Reason [Bronze]
Scott Reason [Bronze]
Shane McDonald [Bronze]

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Britton's Neck
April Richardson [Bronze]
Charlie Eaddy [Bronze]
Anthony Skipper
Franklin Richardson

FLORICULTURE
Lexington ATC
Allen Gates
Michael Dorn
Trent Jeffcoat
Don Crouch
Jason Gordon

Darin Drollinger of Equipment Manufacturers Institute presents the National Chapter Safety Award to Jennifer Newman and Dreyfus Williams of Furman-Manchester.

These McBee students are certainly happy to be given a BOAC award: (from left) John Helms, Jason Rhoad and Chris Hicks.

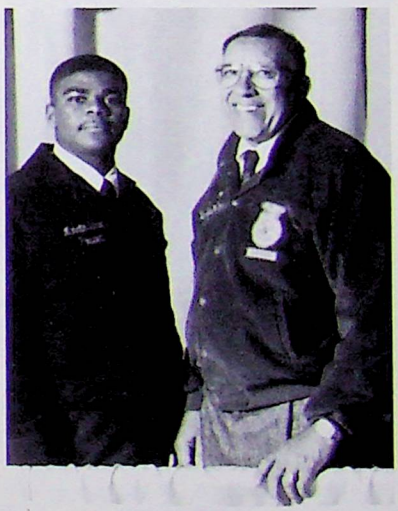
Lexington ATC's Floriculture team is greeted by its contest sponsor in Kansas City. From left: Allen Gates, Michael Dorn, Trent Jeffcoat, Don Crouch, Jason Gordon and teacher Charlie Mayer.

LEFT: Receiving congratulations from Barry Kadechuk of Bridgestone/Firestone was the Ag Mech team from Wagener Salley. From left: Howie Disher, Tim Giaffis, Chad Hudson, Danny Shepperd and Advisor Allen Williams.

Recognized for participation in the BOAC program were Chad Creswell and his teacher, Kenneth Chapman of Strom Thurmond.

International: (from left) David Allen, Greg Anderson, Marty Davis, Charles Boya and Advisor Glenn Stevens of Travelers Rest.

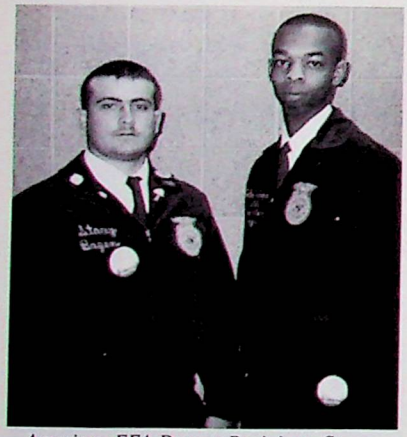
Richard Anderson of Kubota Tractor and Clint Albin of the American Association of Nurserymen meet with George Doolittle, Wesley Franklin, John Powell and Advisor Suzanne Holmes of Strom Thurmond.



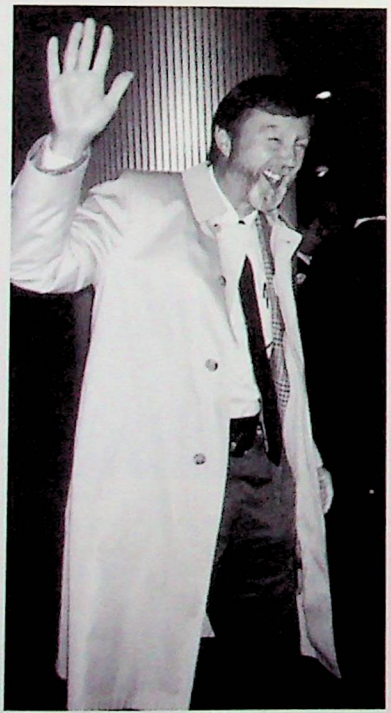
Manolito Sinkler and Advisor Dreyfus Williams of the Furman-Manchester FFA Chapter received a Silver BOAC Citation.

RIGHT: Kevin Jacobs and Advisor Tommy Gladden of the Chester County Career Center experience the art of using chopsticks at a local Japanese restaurant.

Winner of a Bronze National Chapter Award is this group from Clover: (from left) Jason Jones, Tim McAlister, John Clemmer, Ronald Stephens and Advisor Chris Edge.



American FFA Degree Recipients Stacey Bazen and Michael Hemingway of Britton's Neck.



Aiken FFA Advisor Joe Wilson is just happy to be off the bus!

SCVATA

Continued from page 5

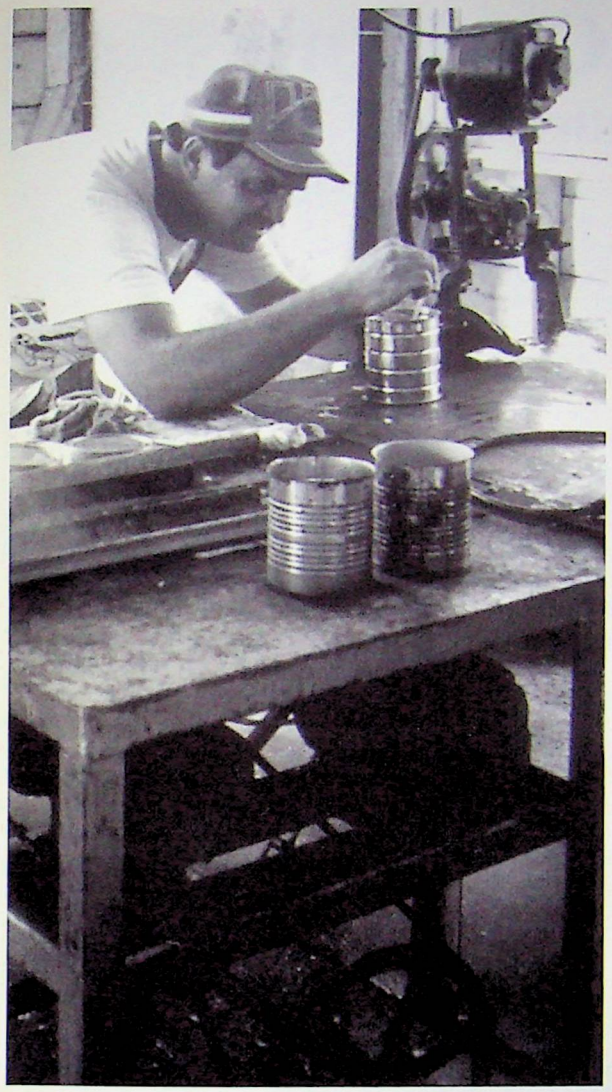
Daniels, who serves as Associate Dean of Administration and Development for Agriculture and Natural Resources, pointed out that the need to serve the public has not changed, although the way the public must be served has. He also pointed out that the four publics served by teachers of vocational agriculture are the teachers themselves, the team of other educators, the clients as students and "the mamas and papas" of today's agricultural students.

James Daniels of Clemson University speaks to the state's teachers on the merits of public service.

Finally, several of those in attendance at the convention received awards from the state organization for outstanding service of some kind. Recognized as 10-year veterans of the classroom wars were William T. Parker, Jr. of Blacksburg, Donnie Garrett of Ware Shoals, and Clinton Henderson, Jr. of Saluda. Those noted for teaching 20 years were Clark Woods of Hillcrest and Edgar Johnson of the B.J. Skelton Career Center.

Chris Edge of Clover High School presented the Ideas Unlimited Award to Greg Baught of Hartsville High School. Baught received the honor for beginning the Agricultural Olympics at his school, an activity held for other school organizations during National FFA Week.

Pat Earle of McBee High School was recognized as the NVATA Outstanding Young Member for those teaching five years or less. Congratulations were also given on his selection as the Region V Winner of the same award.



Laurens FFA Advisor Stewart Glenn checks the temperature of vegetables to be canned.

Laurens Involved in "Uncanny" Activity

When someone in the upstate accuses Laurens High Schhol FFA Advisor Stewart Glenn of being involved in an uncanny activity, they really mean it! In cooperation with the Laurens School District 55, Glenn has been responsible for the operation of one of the last two canneries in the state of South Carolina for the past four years.

The canneries were popular at one time during World War II, but have been dying industries because of spiraling expenses and dwindling need. Located behind the Hickory Tavern Elementary School, the Laurens cannery has been pulling in home canners from across the upstate area for around 50 years. It is completely self-sufficient, running on funds from the school district itself and from the fees it collects from customers. A mere forty cents per can covers the cost of the can, the lid and the gas it takes to run the boilers used in the canning process.

Glenn is one of the few people in the country qualified to operate a cannery, having been schooled at the USDA Canning Processing School located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He opens the plant annually during the third week in June and is found there three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Once his teaching duties in the classroom begin, however, he operates on a Saturday-only schedule for six weeks to allow farmers to can their fall produce. Glenn is thankful for the help he receives from some of his FFA students. "The cannery provides a great opportunity for our students to receive credit for their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP)," he stated.

The canning process is a simple operation that makes life much easier for those who take advantage of the service. Community members simply bring their vegetables to the cannery, where they are preserved for future consumption according to USDA guidelines. Glenn says that he has canned approximately 5,700 units so far this season, which is in line to meet his normal annual output of around 6,600. "It really is a great service that the school district provides," he explained, adding, "People from all over the state take advantage of it."

In Memoriam

Lewis Jennings Carter, Sr., a respected educator and civic leader in the state of South Carolina, passed away Tuesday, November 3, 1992 at the age of 85. He was an integral part of the growth in agricultural education in the area, as he served as District Supervisor of Agricultural Education for almost twenty years, from February of 1956 until his retirement in June of 1975.

Mr. Carter was born in Loris, SC, and was veteran of World War II. He was a graduate of Clemson College, where he received both his B.S. and his Master's Degrees. He began his teaching career at Turbeville High School in Clarendon County and later taught in Loris, where he opened the first on-the-farm training program for veterans in the United States.

Instrumental in the development of the FFA Camp at Cherry Grove, Mr. Carter supervised construction of the facilities and developed what is considered to be one of the finest FFA camps in the nation. For his service, he received awards too numerous to mention during his 40 years of involvement with agricultural education.

Memorials in honor of Mr. Carter may be made to the American Cancer Society or to Kingstree United Methodist Church, where he served as a trustee for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Williamson Carter; his son Lewis Jennings Carter, Jr. of Lakeland, FL; his daughter, Sally Carter Lane of Marion; three grandsons and a granddaughter.

The Spirit of Christmas...

A Few Months Early

The ghost of Ebeneezer Scrooge visited the Homestead, Florida area this year in the form of Hurricane Andrew, the most devastating storm in history to hit the United States mainland. In a matter of hours, any sense of normalcy was lost and all thoughts of the new school year, the Labor Day vacation and the upcoming holidays gave way to a simple struggle to survive.

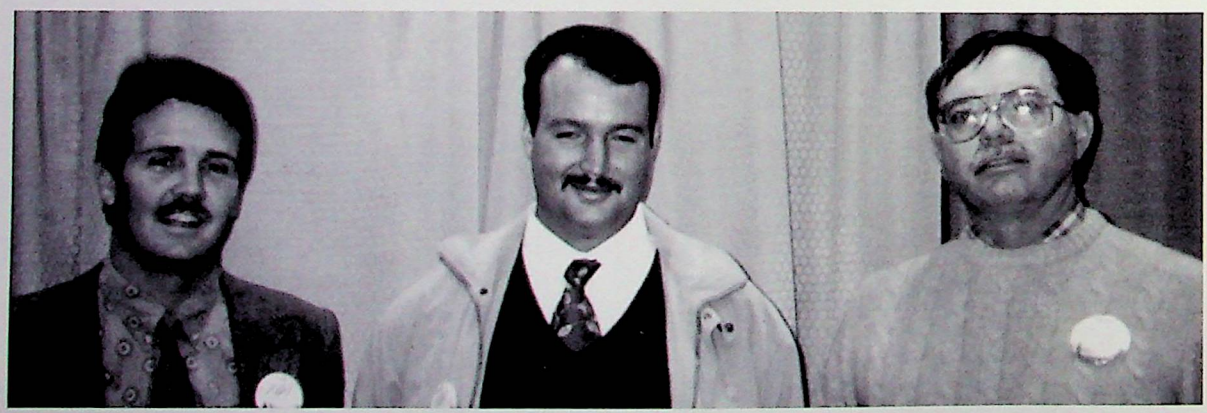
Like most people across the country, Tommy Harmon, FFA Advisor at the Lexington Applied Technology Center, was moved by the scenes of destruction shown each night on the evening news. Harmon, however, made the decision to make a difference rather than sit back and let others assist in the relief efforts. He immediately got in contact with the FFA Advisors at Gilbert and Pelion High Schools and put into action plans for a giant relief effort that culminated on October 22nd with the packing of an 18-wheel truck full of supplies bound for a sister FFA chapter in Homestead, Florida.

"Once I thought about how many things we would need to truly make an impact in the area, I knew it was too large a project for Lexington to handle alone," explained Harmon, as he personally carried boxes of water from a storage house to the truck. "I called Jack Cunningham at Gilbert and Frank Stover at Pelion to pass the idea by them, and from there it really became a district-wide effort."

The three schools pulled together to gather material goods such as mattresses, plyboard, clothes, canned goods, animal food, baby products, and household items to store on the Lexington ATC grounds until the day of shipment. Also, the students raised over $ 6,500 at football games and local supermarkets which was used to purchase additional food, bath products, and school supplies needed by the residents of Homestead. One Lexington student, Jason Bolen, took the effort to heart and personally raised over $1,400 in donations from area farmers. Moreover, Bolen convinced his uncle, Wayne Rawl of Walter P. Rawl and Sons Transport Co. to donate the truck, the gas, the driver, and the time needed to deliver all the goods to the Homestead FFA. Said Rawl, "When Jason first approached me with the idea, there was no doubt in my mind that we would help in whatever way we could. I'm just happy to be able to contribute something to such a good cause."

Harmon said that there were simply too many people to thank for all their assistance in the project. However, there were a few groups in particular that stood out in his mind as going beyond the call of duty in the relief effort. "Personally, I'd like to thank the 23 FFA Chapters across the state that contributed money and goods to the drive, as well as the State FFA Association. The local farmers here and Rawl Trucking gave a great deal, and the Kroger and Food Lion stores were kind enough to allow us to collect money outside of their entrances," he stated.

Harmon continued, "There has been an overwhelming response to this project, and I just can't say enough about the generosity of all involved." Those helped by the effort are sure to feel the same, as they learn just as the Grinch did in Dr. Seuss's classic tale, that the spirit of giving exists far longer than a few days in December.



Lending a helping hand... Pictured at the National FFA Convention are Advisors Frank Stover of Pelion, Bart Davis of Homestead, Fla., and Jack Cunningham of Gilbert.

These Lexington ATC students developed quite an "assembly line" for loading the many boxes of relief supplies!

There's always room for one more!

Lexington ATC Advisor Tommy Harmon takes inventory before the 18-wheeler departs for storm-ravaged Homestead, Fla.

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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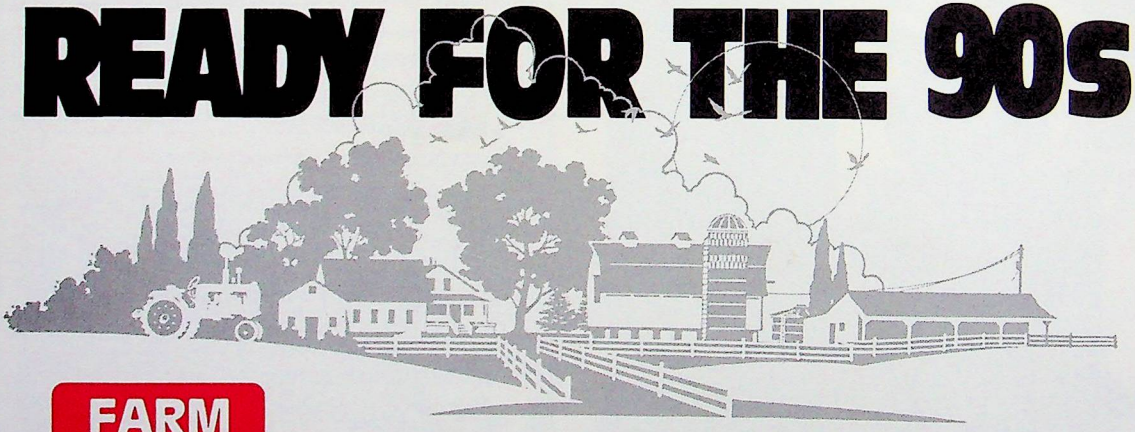

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